

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 to 12 (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A connector element for connecting a fluid line, preferably a length of tubing, cannulas or catheters to a second connector element, comprising:

a conduit forming a lumen for conveying a flowing medium;

a sealing part moveable relative to the conduit between a closed position and an open position, adapted for sealing the conduit from an ambient atmosphere when in the closed position;

an opening element including an outer socket connector having a diameter that is greater than a diameter of the conduit, the opening element configured to open the sealing part while forming a connection, wherein the opening element prevents the sealing part from contacting the conduit either when in the closed position or in the open position;

a shut-off element adapted for sealing the conduit; and

a penetration body movable relative to the shut-off element and adapted for opening the shut-off element when forming the connection.

14. (Previously Presented) A connector element for connecting a fluid line, preferably a length of tubing, cannulas or catheters to a second connector element, comprising:

a conduit forming a lumen for conveying a flowing medium;

a sealing part moveable relative to the conduit between a closed position and an open position, adapted for sealing the conduit from an ambient atmosphere when in the closed position;

an opening element to open the sealing part while forming a connection, wherein the sealing part does not contact the conduit either when in the closed position or in the open position;

a shut-off element adapted for sealing the conduit; and
a penetration body movable relative to the shut-off element and adapted for opening the shut-off element when forming the connection, wherein the penetration body is disposed within the conduit.

15. (Previously Presented) The connector element according to Claim 14, wherein the penetration body comprises a projection for engaging a second inner socket connector of the second connector element when forming the connection.

16 (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting fluid lines, preferably first and second lengths of tubing, cannulas or catheters, comprising:

attaching a first connector element to the first length and a second connector to the second length;

pushing a housing of the second connector element into a housing of the first connector element, so that an outer socket connector of the first connector element acts on a sealing part of the second connector element to open the sealing part of the second connector element, wherein the sealing part of the second connector is movable relative to a conduit of the second connector and the sealing part of the second connector does not contact the conduit of the second connector either when in the closed or open position, and an outer socket connector of the second connector element acts on a sealing part of the first connector element to open the sealing part of the first connector element, wherein the sealing part of the first connector is movable relative to a conduit of the first connector and the sealing part of the first connector does not contact the conduit of the first connector either when in the closed or open position;

further pushing the housing of the second connector element into the housing of the first connector element, so that a recessed inner socket connector of the first connector element forms a continuous conduit with a recessed inner socket connector of the second connector element; and

further pushing the housing of the second connector element into the housing of the first connector element so that a penetration body of the first connector element opens shut off elements of the first and second connector elements.

18 to 32 (Cancelled).